

October 4, 2013

Mr. Larry Miller  
The New Jersey Natural Heritage Program  
DEP – Office of Natural Lands Management  
Mail Code 501-04  
P.O. Box 420  
501 East State Street  
Station Plaza #5, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RARE OR ENDANGERED SPECIES AND NATURAL  
COMMUNITIES INFORMATION FOR THE PSEG EARLY SITE PERMIT  
APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Miller:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by PSEG Power, LLC and PSEG Nuclear, LLC (PSEG) for an Early Site Permit (ESP) for a new nuclear power plant site, which is located on the southern part of Artificial Island on the east bank of the Delaware River in Lower Alloways Creek Township, Salem County, New Jersey. As part of the review of this ESP application, the NRC is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, the NRC regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. The EIS will include an analysis of pertinent environmental issues, including endangered and threatened species and impacts to fish and wildlife. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District, is a cooperating agency on the EIS.

If approved, the ESP would not authorize the applicant to begin construction of the unit(s). However, in its review, the NRC staff will evaluate the environmental impacts of construction and operation and will also consider alternatives, including alternative sites. An ESP allows an applicant to set aside a site for potential future construction of one or more new nuclear power plants and provides the opportunity to resolve site safety and environmental issues before construction begins.

The PSEG initially submitted the application for an ESP on May 25, 2010, pursuant to NRC requirements in 10 CFR Part 52. The NRC staff accepted the application for docketing on August 13, 2010, and it is available through the web-based version of the NRC Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov). PSEG submitted Revision 2 to the ESP application on March 27, 2013.

L. Miller

- 2 -

The Environmental Report (Revision 2) portion of the application is listed under accession number ML13098A979. The PSEG ESP application is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/esp/pseg.html>.

To support the preparation of the EIS, the NRC and USACE request that your office provide a list of rare or endangered species and natural communities on or near the PSEG ESP site and the four alternative sites, including ancillary facilities (i.e. makeup water pipeline, rail spur to plant, transmission line to plant). The five completed data request forms and copies of the U.S. Geological Survey quad maps (we do not have shapefiles) are enclosed.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's environmental review of this ESP application, please contact Dr. Allen Fetter, NRC Environmental Project Manager, at (301) 415-8556 or via e-mail to [Allen.Fetter@nrc.gov](mailto:Allen.Fetter@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel S. Lee, Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch 2  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-043

Enclosures:  
As stated

cc: See next page

L. Miller

- 2 -

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel S. Lee, Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch 2  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-043

cc: See next page

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**ADAMS Accession No.: ML13270A390 \*see previous concurrence NRO-002**

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